

I am constantly online, except when I am playing music, pretty much. I've been playing music for a good 14 years at this point. I live in a fairly rural area with a phenomenal local music scene. My band's been looking at promoting itself more online so this is particularly important to us and me.

We, as a band, have written about 30 or so songs in our 3 year tenure. We are unsigned, but touring (at least locally) and looking to tour on a bigger scale. We play a couple of times a month, and have been recording tracks for an EP recently.

In Easthampton, if you aren't a business, there's only one provider, really. That is if you want fast connections (via cable or DSL, etc.) Otherwise you're stuck with dial-up, which, when you're putting up tracks for sampling/download, is just not even feasible. You can bundle this with Cable and phone service, and many do. I don't, but many do.

On the road, we use an Airport. Take our service with us!

We are able to have a lot more people listen to our music because of the internet, which is AWESOME. We don't really have any illusions about "making it big" but we do want people to listen and enjoy it. And posting tracks on our Myspace page, and our regular page for our friends, and friends of our friends and then friends of Their friends to listen to is much better propaganda than we could spread just at a show.

It mainly gets challenging in copyright issues, but not in posting tracks or distribution of them. Technology in that way is pretty stable. It's really nice to just be able to post your ideas before they get copyrighted also. Because, let's face it, musicians are usually broke and can't afford it anyway.

But the incredible swathe of people we are able to access is more than worth it. I mean, there are people in Australia who listen to my band and like us. That would practically never happen before. Not without us getting signed.

I don't think that ISPs should have policing power. To me, if you own the copyright of something, it is up to you to police the usage of your work. That copyright is your personal (or your agency's) responsibility. Copyrights are a tool by which you can protect your work. So it is up to you to protect your work.

I understand that I'm essentially recommending the copyright equivalent of a debt collection agency, but perhaps that's a better way to go about it.

Now that being said, i don't think that these agencies need any MORE legal power. I think these infringements should be treated more like parking tickets. Access of flagged sites results in a notice

and more access results in a fine.

The ISP is a means, but not a method. ISPs (and perhaps this belies my lack of faith in most of the people who work for these groups) are going to end up over-restricting sites instead of providing a proper security/overseeing measure. I think it'll be an excuse to put up more internal caps in bandwidth.

I think the FCC's policies to make broadband more available are WONDERFUL! Everyone should have access to the internet in as speedy a capability as possible! No matter how stupid they are!

We are moving into a time where all information is going to end up online. To not have access to the internet would be the equivalent of shutting those people out of properly being active in society. Kinda like being homeless. ( Obviously not as grave, but still... Like standing outside and looking in)

Should these principles also apply to wireless internet access? Yes! Yes! Yes!

Oh, and are we looking to make these media services standard utilities like Europe? Cause we should be.

If something can access the internet, the same rules should apply, it shouldn't be different just because the medium the internet is accessed by is different. That doesn't make sense to me.

A lack of neutrality will irrevocably stratify the internet. And not in a good way. The internet will become a near elitist tool (again, i remember having to write code in perl after all!) and we as a nation will suffer for it.

Again, The mediums are not responsible for the actions we choose to partake in, and because of that, they cannot be relied on to police these activities.

For better or for ill, the internet is a forum on the grandest of scales, and it is unbelievably necessary for the current and evolving state of free speech. We are able to comment on current events, talk , perhaps badly, about our lives, or even comment to a government agency about policies that may change our lives. I think that removing net neutrality will jeopardize that. And despite all of the horrible things I've seen and heard online, I don't think we should head in a direction where those crazy, bright, and insightful, but possibly whack-job voices might be silenced by their our ISP providers. That seems a little totalitarian for us as americans.

Thanks so much for letting the John Q. Masses comment on these important proceedings! I hope that I could give you some good insight!

Have a good day, sir or madam who is reading this! I hope you get chocolates for slogging through all of these letters.

Thanks again!